The Register.

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NEW FIRM.

Middlebury Register.

VOL. XXXI.

MIDDLEBURY, VT., TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1866.

NO. 32.

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dations.
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ADDRESS Col. W. G. Veasey of Rutland, REPORE THE RE-UNION SOCIETY OF VER-MONT OFFICERS, IN THE REPRES-ENTATIVES' HALL, THURS-

Mr. President, Comrades, Ladies and Gentlemen: The words of introduction which our distinguished President has been pleased to use, scarcely tend to diminish the embarrassment and so icitude with which I come to a discharge of the duties assigned me upon this occasion of fraternal rennion. We assemble from out scattered hills and valleys to mingle salutations, to review the days of camps and battles, and to gather renewed conrage from the magnetic touch of a comrade's elbow, for the unfinished duties of life. I is an opension when we feel growding in upon our minds memories of mingled joy and sadness; memories not only of terrole achievement but of tallen comrades an occasion not for cold speculative discussion; however profound or ingenious, but rather for the expression of sentiment and patriotic feeling. But in my solicilest I fail to do justice to the occasion, I do not forget that in the bosoms of

DAY EVENING, OCT-

OBER 25TH.

It is not unprecedented for a post revolutionary period to be marked by evil forebodings, and often by immment public peril; greater, perhaps, than in the height of the revolution itself. Meeting as we do to night in the midst of such a period, struggle, and perhaps gather inspiration the perils of the times impose upon us. Until within less than a decade of years, lic. so great sub-tantial political blessings, as the present generation, in this republic. Almost perfect liberty, yet without heense, almost universal prosperity, yet without general dissoluteness, were diffused over our broad domain. Compared with our government in its practical effect on the individual, not only every form that precoded it, but even the ideal republies of philosophers, were but rudiments in goveromental polity. The hand of the State rested so lightly on the individual that he scarcely perceived the touch. The fruits of representative republicanism were being enjoyed, while yet the ordeal of internal disrupt on had not tested its strongth as a form of government. In the struggle for liberty, or perhaps, better in the constant effort to suppress liberty, which constitutes about all there is of history. liberty had occasionally gained a partial triumph. The words democracy and re-Having been used in the private practice of one of the most emisent Physicians in Germany, is now affected to the people of the United States. When the Remedy has been underest to a tale and latest light trial, it will sused it take precedence of all other Liver Remedies now in new. It is the latest contribution of Melical Science to the treatment of that extensive, trouble-one and dangerous series of Disorders growing out of Few persons are aware of the Debility and Gen-eral Derangement of the whole system produced by a Morbil in Calculthy Action of the Laver, and crally so imperfect and under such unfavand for brief periods, the will of the peo- length denied to the friends of freedom. orable circumstances, that the fruits of first successful assertion of these rights in liberty to the citizen were scarcely less behalf of freedom, in a contest precipibutter than those of the tyranny which tated by slavery, became to the latter government soon relapsed. With us, serecognized, property distributed, knowledge ed, full religious toleration, poverty cared for, crime punished, national-ty of spirit, a worthy ancestry, hi-toric renown, alt these, my comrades, constituted but a part of the blessings of free government profusely strewn along our pathway. Even the price paid by the fathers of the Republic, the expenditure of blood and treasure, the sacrifice and soffering through that long, dark night of struggle, with oppression, which preceded the morning

dawn of Independence, is not adequate for the privileges which we enjoyed. Add even the story of the schooling through which the fathers passed, in preparation for their struggle for independ ence, in that seven years' fearful strite so wide-spread that the sun set not on a peaceful quarter of the globe; that contest when in the East, Clive, just from the accommant's desk, led British battalions to the conquest of an empire, wader and richer than ever paled before the Romon eagles: when in Europe, Frederick the Great rose against a gigantic combenetion to the "last glittering peak" of heroic attainment, and when in the West. Montcalm and Wolf upon the heights of

add, I say, the heroic and perilous part which the fathers performed in this conflict in preparation for the nobler struggle tor independence that followed, and we still have not a price equal to the measure of privileges meted out to us under the benign influence of republican liberty.

had proved sufficient.

With but comparatively slight inser ruption, peace, disseminating its untold its growth to a speedy manhood. Except in miniery upon some festive day, no "piercing fife or thomping drum," or soldier's tramp, had awakened the echoes of our mountain slopes Peace prosperity, fraternity, equality, had fatten to our favored lot. Looking back through the tornado of war that followed—through servation, by inclosing specified piece, to any authorized agent the rized agent the rized agent the rized agent for America, OSCAR G. MUSES & CO., 27 Cortaint! St., New York.

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3,19

H. A. SHELDON.

the tears, the pangs, the ucards, section of the Southern breeze, it was to the Northman's cars the warning note of liberty urnated nearly through their nine months' to the happy days of ruddy youth.

Though not fully appreciated the bless- and he was transformed from the peaceings of this free government, based upon ful citizen to the rugged soldier by an in-the equality of man, were none the less fluence within, more irresistible than The enjoyment of this goodly herit age, without price from us, rendered it none the less valuable. Having attained, so far as human experience could judge, and human wisdom devise, the perfection of government, there devolved upon us the triple duty to preserve, to increase, to

transmit the priceless inheritance. To preserve it :- how little did we the magnitude of our duty, the weight of our responsibility, the mighty efforts in store for us. To preserve it :so secure did we regard ourselves in our estate, that these words seemed well nigh like meaningless declaration. But now, you, my comrades, you who have seen

and still more you, parents and widows who wear the weeds of mourning, and bear in your bosons broken and bruised hearts that time cannot heal, for the valiant son, or husband, or brother, whose life went out in the nottle defense; you, I say, can feel, if not tell, something of the fearful depth of meaning which those words em brace. That this was, and is, a duty, a those whom I specially subless, heats solemn duty, none here will deny, and the soldier's warm and generous heart, none but traiters ever fid deny. To fail that brooks no unkindly criticism of a in this duty would be a depth of degradation to which loyalty could not descend To fail in it would be treason.

In the Deciar-tion of Independence the fathers planted themselves upon two fondamental principles; first, the equality of man; s.cond, the right of a people under certain circumstances to cast off it has seemed to me not unwise to run their allegiance to the government. A our eyes over some of the features of the revolution based upon these principles resalted in success From this revolution from bright examples, for the work which | emerged the great political event of history—our Representative Federal Repub-lie. With a love of liberty intensified by it is doubtful whether any generation was the fires of the revolution, and fully confiever the recipient, or in the enjoyment of alent that liberty was safe only in the complete recognition of the principle that men are equal, the fathers hastened to bind their countrymen to this teath by placing it foremost in their bills of rights. Thence onward it has stood, recognized in all the follows of its meaning by a portion of the country, denied in its application to a certain race by the remainder Thence wose the unhappy struggle, the

"irrepressible conflict." On the one side was arrayed self inter est and the prejudice of race-on the other consistency and justice. The anparalled prosperity of the nation, its giant strides to power, our own conceit, at times well nigh closed out eyes to justice. Then the conflict would temporarily sub-side. Our ears were continually soothed by the fullaby of compromise. At first all acknowledged the inconsistency of slavery with equality. At length a portion, blinded by self interest, became the Constitutional rights became sacred only

power the apology for treason Forgetting in the delirium of treason carity in person and property, freedom of able intoxication, the conscerated blood speech and the press, taxation not a bur-den, labor honocable and rewarded, merit of the lathers of the Republic, forgetting the blessings of a benign government, forgetting the vows plighted to liberty and loyalty, the petted children of the Repub-

> raised their hands with hellish fury to strike down tree government and civil liberty. From the recoil of that blow we date, not only the freedom of a race of human beings, but the disenthraliment of liberty itself.

> When the lathers tought for Independence it was with protestations of loyalty, and because they were denied the usual privileges of loyalty. Had their efforts proved unavailing, it would not have een considered fatal to liberty. But after our long experiment of free government under circumstances so favorable to its development, if liberty could not exist here in her own chosen home, amid a people whose genius is hostility to oppression, whose early history is successful resistance to tyranny, whose will is not more the subject than the governor of the law, well might mankind ask in despair, where can the experiment again be

Fortunately for humanity this question needed no answer; for here in her own citadel, liberty found her defense in the steat hearts and strong arms of millions of freemen. It was a rare fortune, my comrades, that God raised you up and made you a part of the grand opris-ing of 61. When the colosus of France aroused his assembled hosts under the pyramids of Egypt to the full inten-So far, in national emergencies as well sity of enthusiasm, by reminding them as in individual protection, the Republic that forty centuries were looking down upon their deeds, the nations of earth applauded the scene. - It was the breath of genus inspiring the machinery of its favors, had attended the nation up through creation with the fiery life of heroism. Yet in grandeur and importance how trifling the scene is in comparison with the rush of the hosts of freedom in America to resist the rebels onset upon envil the North. Upon the battle to ensue liberty. No gaze of forty centuries from towering pyramids, nor the magnetic influence of the lips of genius, inspired the northern heart; but when the clash of cchoing through the vaulted heavens; term of easy service. But their days of which was so long the price, because the un-vortey to fall from patriotic life.

the appeals of oratory, or the magnetism

of genius.

Feeble would be my lips to describe the warlike attitude of our own gallant. State, perched high upon these green hills above the foul atmosphere of treason, in response to the call to arms. Not more quickly did Clan Alpine's warriors answer "through copse and heath" the shrill whistle of Roderick Dhu, than did these **bold** mountains bristle with thinking bayonets. The men who answered this call were not mercenaries, men of low degree, but likened most perhaps, after the heroes of the Revolution, to the Ironsides of Cromwell : men of "grave character, battle. moral, diligent, accustomed to reflect and zealous for public liberty, induced to take up arms, not by the pressure of want, not by the love of novelty and license, not by the arts of recruiting officers," but preservation of the Republic; recognizing as binding upon them the obligations of the founders of the nation, when they pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred bonor, for the independence of the colonies; not unmindful perhaps that the glory of preserving is equal to that of founding an empire. Tharty thousand and more of such men left the fields, the shops, the desks of Vermont to swell the tanks of our armies. Thirty thousand and more of such men, my com rade, has it be a your honor with that of others, whom the grave separates from this happy re union, to lead against the hosts of treason

Are the familiar words of the poet true,

Men who their duties know. But know their rights, and knowing dare

constitute a state? Then what a state ours. Would you, men of Vermont, know the record of this gallant band, this Green Mountain army! Then read the history of the Rebellion. Follow these worthy sons of a noble State from your quiet firesides to the fields of their achieve men's, to well nigh all the gory fields of the Rebellion.

Hear them first at Bethel attering deep curses upon the incompetency that restrained them from performing their mission of chastisement upon the rebel horde. See them on the plains of Manassas, unconscious of defeat, reluctantly following our retreating columns before a virtually beaten foe. Again behold them wasting the turbid stream of Warwick, with gun and cartridge box held high above its waters, pressing through a leaden bail, again-t a sheltered enemy vastly superior in numbers, driving him from his strongholds and holding them against furious assaults until ordered back after half their brave hearts had ceased to bent.

Follow them through from the Chieahominy to the James, stemming the tide pages of history, but often misused as same degree, the enemies of equality. As of disaster, burning with shame at those nightly evolutions that abandoned the fields of daily victory to a defeated foe,

So on through, wherever rebellion showed its "opreared and abutting fronts," there stood Vermont; at Antistum turning back the march of rebellion Marie's Heights, and planting her standards upon those memorable hills; again on that outstretched battle field from the Rapidan to the Appomattor, running through from May to April, every day garnering up laurels that would have adorned the chaplets of Roman Emperors

in their triumphant returns from the conquest of Empires; in the valley of Shenandoah snatching victory from defeat; at Port Hudson and elsewhere on the banks of the Mississippi; up the Red river; at the defenses of Mobile-everywhere indeed throughout the vast arena of conflict, making up a record which the most brilliant achievements of war never eclipsed.

And here I may be allowed to pause, and dwell for one moment upon two days in particular, which Vermont and the nation will ever hold in grateful remembrance: not that they are exceptional but types of many days that added so largely to the fame of the Green Mountain State ; and, at the same time, serving to illustrate both the unparalleled soldierly qualities which her sons can acquire by experience; and their native, untrained valor in the midst of great emergencies : one the 34 of July 1863, the other 19th of October, 18 4. My blood thrills at the thought of the glory which the sons of Vermont won upon those memorable

It will be remembered that after the disastrous battles of Fredericksburgh and Chancellorsville, the rebels induced no doubt by the gloom that had overspread the country, undertook their last great invasion of the North. It was a hop-ful day for the heresy of secesson. Traitors in the North, in eestacy over national misfortunes, had begon to assume an open defiance of law. The term of service of many troops had expired, for was about to expire. The opportune moment seemed to have arrived for the rebels to carry "the bloody course of war"to Northern hearthstone, and by one overwhelming blow destroy forever the

The passage of the Potomac is soon forced, and the centre of war is transferred from Fre lericksburgh to Gettysburgh. For the first time the Potomac army to meet its old for upon the free soil are to be staked the hopes of the Republic, the hopes of liberty. No brave men can be spared from such a battle. Stretched along from Bull Run to the Rappahan

ease have passed. Through heat, and rain, shoeless blistered and weary, they find themselves on the evening of July first, face to face with victorious legions lifeless forms of those who had that day fallen. The morrow's sun will bring

their first dread reality of battle. For the first time they stand side by side with tonity as a brigade to strike for country

back through the smoke of battle. Rerides along our lines, and his clear com-"Forward, the light flying brigade." ment in the front. The next day brings or and better hands, a renewal of the bloody so ne. Throughout the morning furious assaults are mude the immediate, unmistakable proof of the The veteran division of the rebel Picket, Quickly it is formed for the charge. For two hours' one hundred and forty pieces of rebel cannon pour their deadly tents into the ranks of these sons of Vermont untrained to the slock of battle. By all analogy and experience, human endurance has become exhausted. The foundations of earth are shaken by the furious cannonade, but not the lines of these brave men. There they stand upon those bloody slopes, far to the front of their lines, as firm as the hills of their own Green Mountain home, and receive and shatter the charging columns of treason amid the unrestrained applause of the veterans of other corps who were the admiring spectators of the stupendous tragedy. Gettysburgh is won, and the brows of Vermont's gallant soldiers are earlanded with the laurels of the victory from which the wave of Rebellion ever

after receded. Time will not allow me to detail the events that preceded the 19th day of October, 1864. The Shenandoah Valley had again become the active theatre of war. The intrepid Sheridan had pushed fully conscious of the importance of holdnear Middletown, and resolved upon one heroic sac ifice to loyalty and duty. Northward; at Fredericksburg storming of those sudden and overwhelming strokes What, to the heart stricken by that not unfrequently have decided the fortune of a war. On the morning of the 9th of October

circumstances combined to render' the success of the contemplated blow exceedingly probable. The victories that had so lately crowned the Union arms, rendered an attack from the enemy improb-able. Sheridan was absent. The elements even were favorable to a surprise, The foggy atmosphere of early morning covered the rebels' stealthy movements No sound broke the all pervading stillness. While the victors of recent fields were resting in the slumber of over-tasked nature, just as the first streaks of morning pierced the Eastern horizon, the rush, the shout, the opening volley, startled the sleepers to duty. The surprise was complete. In front, in flank, in rear, volleys poured from an unseen foe. But the hardened veterans cannot yield without a struggle. Blow is returned for blow. One position after another is taken, but the rebel onset is irresstible. Thus passes morning into mid day. Many have fallen, more have been captured, camp and artillery gone. The fruits of past victories seem slipping away. But at this crisis Sheridan arrives upon the field, and riding along the lines, he reins up in front of the Vermont regiments and inquires what troops are these, "The sixth corps—the Vermont Brigade" is shouted simultaneously from the ranks. "We immeasurable ages will sacredly cherish are all right!" exclaimed the General, the memory of the great service. To us, and swinging his hat above his head he passes off to the right "amid the exultant shouts of the men." Soon the defensive is abandoned and the offensive assumed, and foremost in that murderons charge, that annihiliated the last rebel army of the valley, were the standards of Ver-

But, comrades, the history of these and many other days is made, it is fresh in our memory, and we need not be our own

to night who was not one of your number one accustomed to stand up on great occasions and portray the heroic deeds of brave men, one whose lips were eloquent with well selected words of eulogy, he, inspired by his theme, would have dwel ong upon the scenes to which I have onreferred. He would have told you of the first regiment, the militia of Vermont. the school which graduated more than half a regiment of officers. He would have dwelt upon the glory won by our two regiments upon the shores of the gulf, and amid the bayous of the Mississippi. He would have spoken of that regiment

best of the eighteenth corps, and the first of the army to trend the streets of Richmond; of the gullant Tenth, which at Monocacy and elsewhere separate from other Vermont regiments, won imperishable fame in honorable competition with the brave troops of sister States; of that last off-pring of Vermont, which ere its ranks were filled took up its march Richmond-ward, and searcely halted except for battle, until called up for find mus-ter out; of the sharp shooters and batter-ies always summoned to the post of dan-ger; of our ubiquitous cavalry which upon seventy-two hard fonglit fields rolled up trophics of victories as the fabled giants "upon Ossa rolled the leafy Olym-

And he would have dwelt upon the deeds of our "Old Brigade," which became like the Old Guard of France, in of Lec. Before them lie the maimed and the resplendent glory of the Empire, the pride and envy of the army; not the least of whose honors it was to win and retain the confidence and admiration of those two eminent Generals, the one the veterans of the grand old army of the that skillful soldier of Vermont whose Potomac. Their term of service is about genius alone could relieve a beleaguered to expire. This will be their only oppor- and discomfitted army in the defenses of Chattanooga from what appeared to othand honor. They have the example of the old regiments to emulate. Great are their duties and responsibilithrough the clouds of heaven over a conities. But they are true sons of Vermont. fident and previously victorious enemy; The opening day brings the expected the other, that rugged veteran of the With varying success, it rages West, under whom the brigade reached alorg from centre to left and left to the pinnacle of beroic achievement, and centre. At last the lines give way, to whose careful training and soldierly Dingy squads of men come streaming example the brilliant career and surpassing fame of the brigade are largely due. enforcements are called for. Then the He would also have told you of that by the highest sense of political duty, the generous Doubleday, to whom Vermont younger brigade with a briefer but not owes so much for securing to her sons less glorious service. He would have the credit to which they are justly due, presented in detail the Herculean efforts of our little State in the great war, the mand is heard above the din of conflict, facts and figures of statistics, and by comparison with the efforts of other States in Quickly they present their breasts to the other times have enabled you better to deadly missiles and pressing forward to appreciate the magnitude of the task per-the breach, turn back the flooding tide formed by Verment in the struggle for of battle. This ends the second day of national preservation. All these things Gettysburgh with the standards of Ver- circumstances compel me to leave to other

But, men of Versiont, would von have upon the right flank. Except the left valor that has added so much to the lustre center, every part of our lines have been of your escutcheon! Then raise your tried. Lee has heard that this is held eyes to these tattered colors that adorn by new and untried troops. From his these halls with suggestions of glory observatory he sees their unsheltered which we may well allow to conceal the position. Break through that and the skill and handswork of the architect. Potomae army is destroyed forever. These pierced and shattered fragments tell, with an eloquence loftier than huthat has never known defeat, is still fiesh. man lips can utter, where stood Vermont in the foror of battle.

"They tell of tife that calmly looked on death, Of peerless valor, and of trust smilling, Or costly sacrifice of holiest fairly, Of lofts, hopes that ended not with time." Thank God! not a single flag did our

Vermont soldiers surrender during the four years of war; not one of the sacred emblems ever felt the polluting touch of a traitor's hand. There let them hang so ong as peace shall remain within our borders,-glorious ensigns of liberty, noble inspirators of patriotism, silent monitors of duty. But should liberty again be assailed, should the pestilence of war again breathe open us, then return them to the front, their wonted place in the hour of battle, and there you will find strong arms and brave hearts to bear them on to re-

newed victory. But, after all, how feeble are the facts and figures of staristics to portray the magnitude of sacrifice which Vermont has lain upon the altar of free government Our eyes have become so accustomed to large figures that they scarcely attract attention. But could we go down into the tabernacies of the hearts of the proud his victorious army, comprised largely of fathers, the fond mothers, the devoted Vermont troops, far up the Valley wives, the affectionate sisters of those Smarting under repeated defeats, and who have submitted to the last dread who have submitted to the last dread test of patriotism, and baid down their ing this valley, the rebels had quietly as lives for their country," there might we sembled a large and well appointed force behold the real though sad picture of

> of son or husband, or brother, are untold millions of treasure in comparison with the single life crushed under the burden of patriotic duty! In the fullness of generous sympathy we mingle our tears with those of the bereaved ones over the ashes of the patriot dead. Gladly do we award the full meed of praise both to the living and dead for their noble sacrifice.

> Not less of praise and admiration do we extend to the untitled patriot who, without hope of reward and emolument attested with his blood the sincerity of his devotion, than to the titled chief. Side by ride in death they become the equal worthy offering for freedom. When generations to come, in the full fruition of the blessings which the triumph of free government will perpetuate, shall reflect upon the price of their inheritance they will drop the tear of gratitude alike upon the graves of all those who lost their lives in the noble struggle.

> At the first reunion of Vermont officers while gathered around the festive board. a sentiment was offered to our comrades. Standing with bowed heads, that joyous assembly responded in the sublime eloquence of silence. No feeble words of mine can add to that delicate and express ive tribute of our regard and affection.

> To the broken home circles there is the sweet consolation of the highest duty performed; the pleasant thought that comrades, there remains not only to mourn their loss, but to emulate their bright example, to enjoy the fruits of their deeds and to fulfill the mission of duty for which they offered their price-

We would erect above their numero graves, not the broken shaft, as indicative of an incomplete career, but the full rounded monolith, the emblem of a per-

It has seemed to me not inappropriate, now that the effort to revolutionize the government by a resort to arms has failed, and the tocsin of war is hushed, that we should address ourselves briefly to the unfinished mission of the soldier. And here I would be glad to speak of his general duties as a citizen; the duty of of soldiers to each other; their social relations; the duty and pledges of society to them. I would gladly enter my most carnest protest against, I fear, a growing idea in the public mind, tha the soldiers returned from the war full of vice, dissipated, and dangerous to peace and well being of the society. As applied to the true soldiers of Vermont, it is a calumpy